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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

`TRNC' community now a state - Hurriyet  
Istanbul ready for NATO Summit - Sabah  
Human Rights Watch praises, criticizes Turkey - Milliyet  
Al-Qaeda threatens to kill captive American - Milliyet  
No evidence of Saddam, Al-Qaeda tie - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

`TRNC' becomes `Turkish Cypriot State' - Radikal  
Turkey gains support of Islamic countries - Zaman  
NATO sends AWACS for Istanbul summit - Cumhuriyet  
Scheffer: Istanbul Summit a turning point for NATO - Yeni  
Safak  
Greek Cypriot FM: Turkey may withdraw 5,000 troops from  
Cyprus - Cumhuriyet  
81 percent of Iraqis support Moqtada al-Sadr resistance -  
Yeni Safak  
al-Sadr urges Najaf resisters to go home - Yeni Safak  
Huntington: US to become `more Christian' - Cumhuriyet  
Human Rights Watch praises Turkey's progress - Radikal  
Israel angered by Erdogan's `anti-Semitism' remarks -  
Radikal

BRIEFING

OIC Istanbul Summit: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told  
members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)  
not to use the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an excuse for  
delaying crucial domestic political and economic reform. At  
the end of the three-day foreign ministers' meeting of the  
57-nation OIC, Turkey said that the body's new, Turkish  
secretary-general would promote democracy and dialogue with

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the West. "This points to a new transformation of the OIC,"  
Gul said, noting that this was the first secretary-general  
to be elected democratically by member countries. Ankara  
also won a diplomatic success with the OIC decision to  
recognize the Turkish Cypriot enclave in Cyprus (`TRNC') as  
a "state" rather than just a "community" in its OIC  
representation. The OIC countries did not grant full  
diplomatic recognition to the `TRNC,' but they agreed to  
lift all economic restrictions against northern Cyprus. In  
a joint communique, the 57 OIC countries expressed strong  
support for the new Iraqi transitional government and for an  
end to the occupation there.

Bloomfield due in Ankara: US Assistant Secretary of State  
Lincoln Bloomfield is to discuss with the Turks US plans for  
the American military presence in Turkey and Washington's  
new Global Defense Posture, "Cumhuriyet" reports.  
Washington is considering a more central role for Turkey  
within its plans for a global redeployment of US forces.  
The US will unofficially discuss with Ankara the prospects  
for building American bases on the Black Sea. Bloomfield is  
to visit Moscow after Ankara in an effort to eliminate  
Russian concerns with regard to the new US strategy,  
according to "Cumhuriyet."

Human Rights Watch on Turkey: Despite significant human  
rights reforms, the Turkish government must further improve  
its record in some areas, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a  
June 15 statement. HRW said that freedom of expression,  
torture, and freedom of assembly are all areas where  
significant additional efforts are needed. Turkish  
authorities made two historic advances last week with the  
first television broadcasts in minority languages, including  
Kurdish, and the release of four Kurdish parliamentarians  
imprisoned since 1994. "The remaining human rights problems  
are serious," said HRW. The June 28 and 29 NATO summit in  
Istanbul promises to be a demanding test of the Turkish  
police's ability to maintain security while preserving full

respect for human rights, the report stressed.

Kurdish ex-MPs on Southeast tour: Former DEP lawmakers Leyla Zana, Selim Sadak, Orhan Dogan and Hatip Dicle are touring Turkey's southeast in an effort to decrease tension in the region. Dicle said Wednesday in Siirt province that it was time to seek a lasting, democratic solution to the Kurdish problem. 'We will accept the Republic of Turkey as our state as long as Turkey protects Kurds' cultural rights,' Dicle said. Meanwhile, the Turkish military went on 'yellow alert' in the southeast Turkey in the face of intensified attacks by PKK/Kongra-Gel militants.

EU Summit in Brussels: Dailies expect EU leaders to urge Turkey to include the Greek Cypriots in Ankara's Customs Union (CU) agreement with the EU at the EU Summit in Brussels Thursday. An unidentified European Commission official said Turkey should be prepared to recognize south Cyprus, another step that will have to be taken by Ankara before receiving a date for EU entry talks. The EU sees ongoing problems in judicial independence, basic freedoms, cultural rights, and military-civilian relations in Turkey, papers report.

Armenia requests transit passage for imports: Ankara is considering the possibility of opening its border with Armenia for transit passage by third countries, "Aksam" reports. If the border gate is opened, the dispatch of European goods to Armenia will be made through Turkey instead of through Iran or Georgia. The MFA said that trucks carrying goods to Armenia through Iran and Georgia had been granted transit passage through Turkey, but that no further step had been taken.

EDELMAN